4. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 5-7333

(1) paragraph 27, line 1

[0027]

[Way to solve the problems]

In order to solve the aforementioned problems and accomplish the object, a still video camera according to the present invention using an area sensor capable of reading out horizontal line in arbitrary order specified in advance includes steps of, dividing the sensor vertically into j areas each having k horizontal lines, setting accumulation time of k horizontal lines in respective j areas by i ways of accumulation times, and controlling the area sensor by sequentially reading out each horizontal line in j areas by respective groups having same accumulation time in order to obtain i ways of exposure information from imaging signals of one picture frame of the area sensor.

[0028]

Moreover, the still video camera according to the present invention includes an aperture stop for limiting incident light step-by-step, sets accumulation time of the aforementioned k horizontal lines by the i ways between the longest accumulation time and the shortest accumulation time, repeats the aforementioned action to obtain the i ways of exposure information in each stopping down step from wide open state of the aperture stop, and stops repeating the action when the optimum exposure of the area sensor has been detected.

[0029]

Furthermore, the still video camera according to the present invention moves focus position of the lens unit from

infinity to the nearest object at a state of the aperture stop when the aforementioned repeating has stopped, reads out imaging signals at N positions on the way of moving focus position, detects defocusing amount of the image from the imaging signals of N positions, and obtains focus position as a position where the least defocusing amount is detected.